

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An occupant protection system for deploying a deployable air bag from a vehicle instrument panel having an opening, the protection system comprising:

an air bag normally in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the instrument panel opening and deployable through the instrument panel opening as a protection for the occupant; and

the air bag having a skin, including and a portion of the skin forming a closure portion that provides the sole closure of the instrument panel opening and is directly exposed to an occupant compartment of the vehicle when the air bag is deflated, and the closure portion of the air bag moving outwardly from the instrument panel opening as the air bag is deployed.

2.-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) In combination, a vehicle having an air bag deployable upon vehicle impact and an occupant protection system for deploying a deployable air bag from a vehicle instrument panel having an opening, the protection system comprising:

an air bag normally in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the instrument panel opening and deployable upon vehicle impact through the instrument panel opening as a protection for the occupant; and

the air bag having a skin, including and a portion of the skin forming a closure portion of that provides the sole closure of the instrument panel opening and is directly exposed to an occupant compartment of the vehicle when the air bag is deflated, and the closure portion of the air bag moving outwardly from the instrument panel opening as the air bag is deployed.

5. (previously presented) The occupant protection system of claim 1 wherein the skin that closes the opening is flush with the vehicle instrument panel.

S/N: 09/620,581
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2005

Atty Dkt No. VEI 0319 PUS

6. (previously presented) The combination of claim 4 wherein the skin that closes the opening is flush with the vehicle instrument panel.